

AN UNDESCRIBED HYMENOPTEROUS PARASITE OF THE HOUSEFLY.¹

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During the summer of 1912, Mr. J. H. Paine reared from the pupæ of *Musca domestica* Linn. at Forest Hills, Mass., a number of specimens of an apparently undescribed Pteromalid belonging to the genus *Spalangia*. These were kindly placed at the writer's disposal and formed the basis of a life-history study which, it is hoped, will be published in the near future.

The present paper deals with a preliminary description of the species which will be known as

Spalangia muscidarum sp. nov.

Male: (Fig. 1) Length 3-3.5 mm. Frontal aspect of head oblong-ovate, with numerous large depressions; eyes ovate, not emarginate in front; entire head covered with a short rather stout light-colored pile; ocelli present; labrum very small in proportion to length of head, the free border rounded, hairy; mandibles bidentate, length more than twice the width at base; antennæ 10-jointed; scape as long as the three succeeding joints, covered with hair of the same texture as that on the head, second joint shortest; third joint almost as long as the succeeding two; the remaining seven joints except the last which is longer, of equal length; they are covered with fine light-colored hair; genæ punctate like the face.

Thorax above with the three divisions distinct; anterior narrowed portion of pronotum finely punctate and sharply marked off from the posterior part, which is sparsely and very coarsely punctate except for a median smooth space widest posteriorly; a transverse row of deep umbilicate punctures near its posterior margin; mesonotum smooth and polished anteriorly, sparsely punctate posteriorly and laterally leaving a smooth median space for its entire length; parapsides prominent with a few scattered punctures; parapsidal grooves deep, punctate; scutellum smooth, sometimes with several scattered punctures at sides; a distinct punctured line crosses it posteriorly; post-scutellum smooth; metanotum with two deeply punctate longitudinal lines separated by a smooth raised area; on either of these lines of punctures is a smooth space bounded posteriorly and laterally by numerous deep punctures, smallest and most abundant on the sides. Mesopleuræ each with a single fovea; an aciculate depression below and behind the tegula. Abdomen smooth except petiole which is finely aciculate; 3rd segment largest. Hind coxæ swollen; first joint of tarsi not quite as long as the succeeding four. Wings hyaline covered with short stout hairs. Venation piceous. Color of thorax deep bronze; abdomen deneous; the tarsi yellow-brown except the last joint which is black.

The female is larger and of a more delicate structure than the male. The head is longer and narrower (Figs. 3 & 4), the antennæ are more slender and the abdomen (Fig. 2) is of different proportions.

¹Contributions from the Entomological Laboratory of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University, No. 64.

